

Message Text

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21

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05 ACDA-05 OMB-01 NRC-05 /061 W

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O R 091021Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5687

DOD IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

S E C R E T CANBERRA 2948

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MNUC

SUBJECT: CORAL SEA TASK FORCE VISIT: NUCLEAR DISCLOSURE POLICY

1. THERE IS A RUMOR, NO MORE THAN THAT AT THIS POINT, THAT SOME TRADE UNIONS IN WEST AUSTRALIA MIGHT TAKE SOME INDUSTRIAL ACTION AGAINST THE SHIPS OF THE CORAL SEA TASK FORCE. DFA IS LOOKING INTO THE MATTER AND IN THE MEANTIME PREPARING CONTINGENCY PRESS STATEMENTS ON A NUMBER OF POSSIBLE ISSUES. AT THIS POINT IN TIME IT IS UNCLEAR WHAT OBJECTIONS IF ANY THE TRADE UNIONISTS HAVE TO THIS VISIT.

2. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, DFA HAS ASKED US TO CLEAR WITH WASHINGTON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE FOLLOWING QUESTION AND ANSWER WHICH DFA WOULD USE IF NECESSARY:

QUESTION: WHAT RISK IS THERE TO THE INHABITANTS OF FREEMANTLE, IF ANY, OF THESE SHIPS ARE CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

ANSWER: THE VISITS OF THESE UNITED STATES NAVY SHIPS TO WEST AUSTRALIAN PORTS WOULD INVOLVE NO RISKS TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE PORTS CONCERNED WHETHER OR NOT THEY CARRIED NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AS A MATTER OF COURSE, NUCLEAR WEAPON DESIGNS AND HANDLING PROCEDURES PAY THE MOST SCRUPULOUS ATTENTION TO

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SAFETY AND THE AVOIDANCE OF ACCIDENTS. THEY INCLUDE POSI-

TIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT THE ACCIDENTAL ARMING OF THESE WEAPONS AT ANY TIME AND TO INSURE THAT ANY ACCIDENT THAT OCCURRED TO THE SHIP CARRYING THEM DOES NOT RESULT IN ANY NUCLEAR RADIATION FROM THEM.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT APPROVE TEXT OF ANSWER PREPARED BY DFA OR PROVIDE A MORE SUITABLE ANSWER TO THE HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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